

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 16, 17, 22, 28 and 29 in accordance with the following:

Claims 1-15 (canceled).

16. (currently amended) A method for accessing a mapping object by a computer, comprising:

determining to retrieve the mapping object when a digital image is modified by a predefined process to at least one of transform and convert the digital image, the predefined process having at least one parameter which determines a mapping of how the digital image is modified to obtain the mapping object;

determining an index by reference to the at least one parameter; and

referencing the mapping object by reference to the index, when the mapping object is stored in a memory.

17. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the digital image is modified by predefined process uses a plurality of subprocesses to at least one of transform and convert the digital image.

18. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the index is determined as a uniquely defined index.

19. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said referencing includes accessing the index stored with an entry address in the memory for the mapping object.

20. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said referencing includes accessing the index for the mapping object in the memory.

21. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, further comprising compressing and then storing the mapping object.

22. (currently amended) A method for accessing a mapping object by a computer, comprising:

determining an index from at least one parameter of a process to at least one of transform and convert a predefined digital image, the at least one parameter determining a mapping of how the digital image is modified to obtain the mapping object;

determining an address of the mapping object by reference to the index;

accessing the mapping object, if the mapping object can be determined with respect to the index;

determining and accessing a new mapping object from the predefined digital image according to the process, if the mapping object cannot be determined with respect to the index.

23. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein a plurality of processes are used for one of determining indices and determining the new mapping object from the predefined digital image.

24. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the mapping object is accessed if the at least one parameter corresponds, within a predefined tolerance, to at least one stored parameter of the mapping object.

25. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the mapping object includes information.

26. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the mapping object includes another digital image.

27. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the at least one parameter is a specific variable for influencing image data of the predefined digital image.

28. (currently amended) A system for accessing a mapping object by a computer, comprising:

a memory to store the mapping object; and
a processor unit to determine to retrieve the mapping object by reference to an index when a digital image is modified by a predefined process to at least one of transform and convert the digital image, the predefined process having at least one parameter which determines the index and ~~a mapping of how the digital image is modified to obtain~~ the mapping object.

29. (currently amended) A system for accessing a mapping object by a computer, comprising:

a processor unit
to determine an index from at least one parameter of a process to at least one of transform and convert a predefined digital image, the at least one parameter determining ~~a mapping of how the digital image is modified to obtain~~ the mapping object,
to determine an address of the mapping object by reference to the index,
to access the mapping object, if the mapping object can be determined with respect to the index, and
to determine and access a new mapping object from the predefined digital image according to the process, if the mapping object cannot be determined with respect to the index.